

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 16-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 13, 16-18 and 20 have been amended, claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled and claims 24-26 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Morita et al.; and claims 10-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morita et al.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AAPA in view of Morita et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the independent temperature reference signal and the output signal from the switch have substantially a same slope such that the compensator outputs a square wave-shaped signal in accordance with a compared result.

These features are supported in the non-limiting example of Fig. 4, for example, in which the independent temperature reference signal and the output signal from the switch (input signal OP1) have substantially the same slope such that the compensator outputs a square wave-shaped signal in accordance with a compare result. The square wave-shaped

signal is shown in Fig. 4, for example, which illustrates the clock signal \overline{CK} having a square wave-shaped signal.

Note the square wave-shaped clock signal \overline{CK} differs from the background art shown in Fig. 2 in which the clock signal \overline{CK} does not have a square wave-shaped signal. The present specification teaches the problems with this at least at page 7, lines 6-15. That is, the clock signal to the D flip-flop has no reference value which is accurately defined to enable the operation of the D flip-flop. This clock signal is defined only by the output signal from the transistor Q1 which has a falling edge depth varying according to whether the user touches the touch sensor 5. As a result, there is a concern that the D flip-flop could be different in the enabling point according to individual specifications or manufacturers thereof, thereby causing each key in the touch sensor to be different in sensitivity and performance (see page 7, lines 6-15).

On the contrary, according to the claimed invention, the independent temperature reference signal and the output signal from the switch have substantially the same slope such that the compensator outputs a square wave-shaped signal in accordance with a compared result. Thus, with the square wave-shaped signal according to the present invention, the problems with the background art are solved.

The Office Action indicates Morita et al. teaches a discriminatory unit which corresponds to the claimed compensator. However, it is respectfully noted Morita et al. does

not recognize the problems noted with background art, and does not teach or suggest an independent temperature reference signal having substantially a same slope as an output signal from the switch Morita et al. also does not teach or suggest applying a square wave-shaped clock signal produced by the independent temperature signal and switch output signal having substantially the same slope. Thus, combining Morita et al. with AAPA does not produce the advantages of the claimed invention nor result in the claimed invention. The applied art also does not teach or suggest the combination of features disclosed in the claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Claims 10-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morita et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar arguments apply to this rejection as that discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. That is, independent claims 10 and 18 include similar features as claim 1 in a varying scope. As discussed above, Morita et al. does not teach or suggest these features or the combinations thereof. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 10 and 18 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Further, new claims 24-26 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope and Applicant submits the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new claims 24-26 include features directed to the pair of resistors

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R103, R104 and the thermistor Rth shown in Fig. 3, for example. It is respectfully submitted none of the applied art teach or suggest the specific structure of these claims nor the combination of the features disclosed in the claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted dependent claims 24-26 further define over the applied art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim, Esq.
Registration No. 36,186
David A. Bilodeau, Esq.
Registration No. 42,325

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 DYK/DAB:knv
Date: SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610